

presence of this species because it readily comes to sugar and light, as well as being attracted to nectar sources such as the flower heads of ragwort. Unfortunately, the absence of any regular monitoring on the Wigtownshire and Kirkcudbrightshire coasts means that it is impossible to say when northward expansion occurred. It could have happened at any time during the 20th century and cannot therefore be linked to any recent climatic changes. However, if the moth is looked for further northwards, for example along the coast of Ayrshire, on Ailsa Craig, Arran and the Mull of Kintyre, it may be possible to track its range expansion, if it is happening.

With thanks to Keith Bland for details from the Scottish Insects Record Index and for comments on an earlier draft of this short note.— RICHARD AND BARBARA MEARNS, Connansknowe, Kirkton, Dumfries DG1 1SX.

***Mythimna albipuncta* D. & S. (Lep.; Noctuidae); an unusual migrant to north-west Kent, and a comment on *Cryphia algae* Fabr.**

There appear to be no more than three records of *Mythimna albipuncta* in north-west Kent in more than a century and a half. Chalmers-Hunt (1964. *Butterflies and Moths of Kent*), notes only three examples, for West Wickham in 1875, at Finden in 1959 and at Lee in 1969, and I can find no reference to more recent specimens. Records for the rest of the London Area (Plant, 1993. *Larger Moths of the London Area*) are similarly meagre.

On 12 August 2003, what I thought might be *M. albipuncta* was attracted to my garden m.v. light but *M. ferrago* (Fabr.) had been noted only two nights previously; Bernard Skinner kindly confirmed the identity as *albipuncta*, two more of which arrived on 13 August and another on 22 August. These occurred during a spell of considerable migratory activity, and on 11 August a male and female *Agrius convolvuli* L. were seen in my garden, one flying at dusk in my lean-to greenhouse and the other at rest on the door.

Agrotis ipsilon Hufn. and *Autographa gamma* (L.) appeared in ones or twos nightly. However, the two *Cryphia algae* Pab., noted on 28 July and 10 August were probably local residents – this being the fourth consecutive year the species has been noted in my garden in a locality far removed and isolated from the coastal and near coastal locations where *algae* has been observed.— B. K. WEST, 36 Briar Road, Dartford, Kent. DA5 2HN.

EDITORIAL COMMENT: It may be of relevance to the comments contained in the last paragraph of Brian West's note, above, that the Tree Lichen Beauty *Cryphia algae* was also noted during 2003 at Regent's Park in central London (Middlesex) by Tim Freed, with examples on 8 July (one), 20 July (one) and on 12 August (two). Mr Freed comments in his telephone message to me that the first example appeared before the main wave of immigrants to Britain this year and he wonders if the species is breeding in Regent's Park. This journal would welcome notes for